



Remarks of HopSkipDrive

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Workshop: Criminal Background Checks for TNC Drivers/Roundtable Discussion

CPUC San Francisco Headquarters

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My name is Carolyn Yashari Becher. I am a co-founder and General Counsel of HopSkipDrive. HopSkipDrive commenced TNC operations in March 2015 and since then its Trustline-certified, fingerprinted CareDrivers have safely delivered hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors' rides in California.

This Commission is responsible for ensuring the safety of unaccompanied minors while transported by TNCs. Driving children is different from driving adults. Children are vulnerable, they are less able to control dangerous situations, and they require extra protection. Therefore this Commission should require, without exception, that all TNC drivers who drive unaccompanied minors be fingerprinted, even if that driver's company does not primarily transport children. Anything less is knowingly putting children at risk.

The most compelling argument for fingerprinting drivers of minors is the rap-back feature. Fingerprinting is the only process currently available that provides an automatic update if a driver is convicted of a crime after starting to drive for a TNC. Name-based background checks provide only a snapshot in time. The rap-back feature eliminates the risk of a driver who starts with a clean background but is later convicted but keeps driving because the TNC was not informed. Furthermore, parents are able to verify drivers' clean backgrounds by contacting Trustline directly through a toll-free number.

Decision 16-04-041 states that TNCs that "primarily" transport unaccompanied minors must comply with Trustline. But this is not sufficient. This rule permits 49.9% of an adult-centered TNC's trips to take place—that's millions of unaccompanied minors per month-- without the protection of fingerprinting. That's a gaping, dangerous loophole – it's completely unenforceable and does not adequately protect children.

The Commission should adopt, and fully enforce, a fingerprint requirement for any driver on any TNC platform who is driving unaccompanied minors, regardless of company affiliation, and should required adult-focused TNCs to clearly publicize that non-fingerprinted drivers are not permitted to transport unaccompanied minors.

Thank you.